

sity and importance of high and lofty ideals. Emerson said, "Hitch your wagon to a star." This is only another way of saying, Let your ideal be high.

It is better to set one's ideal high and not reach it than to set it low and reach it, which means to become self satisfied and complacent, than which nothing worse can befall anyone.

It is the glory of our Christianity that it sets before us an ideal for life's attempts. Whatever else men may say about Christ, it is universally conceded that he is supreme in the realm of character. Unbelievers acknowledge him to be the world's best and most perfect man. No character in the world's history has been so potent for good as his. Those nations and individuals that have made Jesus Christ their ideal have developed the best and most permanent civilizations and characters.

Jesus Christ, including his teachings is to be made our ideal. And presumably those to whom I write have so made him. I trust that you have, and that your daily endeavor is to exemplify his life in yours.

But then, we need to set before us, standards or ideals in other departments of work. So we have set a certain point which we hope to reach this year in our society work. At one of our special conferences held during our National Conference, it was decided that we attempt to raise \$500 this year, \$250 to go to Ashland college and \$250 to be set aside as a fund for foreign mission, to be used when the church finds the way open to send missionaries to foreign lands.

However, this is not obligatory. Any society has the privilege of advising the treasurer what use to make of the funds sent in by it.

It is to be hoped that every society will co-operate with us in this work. In union there is strength. We are always weak when divided.

We recommend that each society take a regular monthly offering for this purpose. Let it be a *free-will* offering. Make special mention of it, and if possible arrange special meetings for it. Have some one lay before the society our needs, first, as to the College, and second, as to our missions. Do not neglect this. Begin at once with the last service in this month. Giving is a grace to be cultivated and we can now begin. Let us rise upon the motive for giving, that it is our duty. Let us give because of a higher motive that impels us. Love to God and his cause in the world.

And take notice: Send all money collected whether the amount be large or small to the treasurer of the National society.

MISS ETTA LICHTY,

Waterloo, Iowa.

NOTES

The topic cards are now ready and should be ordered of The Brethren Publication Board, Ashland, Ohio. The price remains the same, 50 cents per hundred.

Some one suggested that our motto for

this year be, "A Whole Gospel for a Whole World." Surely we can not keep a better before us. And then it will help us raise that \$250 for a Foreign Mission Fund.

Here is St. Augustine's creed: (1) A whole Christ for my salvation. (2) A whole Bible for my staff and guide. (3) A whole church for my fellowship. (4) A whole world for my parish.

Either the life of Christ as the highest standard and example means something or it means nothing. If something, let us try to follow it; but if nothing, then for God's sake let us put it away as a cruel, delusive and damnable mummery.—*Hall Caine, in "The Christian."*

It is a good thing to be known as an 'Endeavorer' in any department of human activity. But to be known as an 'Endeavorer' in the work of unifying the Christian forces of our civilization and making Christianity a factor in business and government is a distinction of which any right-minded person should be proud.—*From Editorial, in Chicago Times-Herald.*

OUR OWN CHURCH: WHAT CAN WE DO FOR HER?

WM. H. MILLER

Our church, the Brethren church, needs no introduction to the readers of the EVANGELIST. Ushered into being midst opposition, yet she stands divinely commissioned to herald to the world the gospel of Jesus Christ in all its fulness. Thus "we are ambassadors for Christ." We stand (spiritually) twixt God and a world of sinners, in Christ's stead reconciling man to God. We thus have a great duty: To do our Christian work as Jesus would do it, and live the Christ life here on earth. What can we do for her?

1. We can live in the world, yet show forth a life of purity. Christ touched the leper, yet retained purity. He mingled with publicans and sinners yet was undefiled. We live in a world of sin, yet can retain purity. We mingle with sinners, yet as Christians remain undefiled. So we may "keep ourselves unspotted from the world," and in so doing, keep our church pure and unspotted.

2. We can reflect the Christ-life and say: "not as I will, but as thou wilt, O Father! Thus will we "be conformed to the image of his Son," and our life will be "hid with Christ in God." The result is a new creation. "If any man be in Christ he is a new creature." The Christians are the light of the world. We may be lower light. We shed forth light, divine light, even Jesus Christ. Self is dethroned, our own individuality is lost, but thru us does Christ blaze forth. "A city that is set on an hill can not be hid." So may we help make our church, the Brethren church.

3. We can be intensely loyal to our church. We can have an ardent love for her welfare. We can throw all our energy to her material and spiritual advancement. We can be exceeding zealous for her prosperity

and divine guidance. We may be the means of awaking and instilling into some lethargic member, his duty to the church, thus help to awaken Christendom to the great need and duty of the church universal. We can by the grace of God help to make our church exceeding zealous, energetic, loyal, devout and pure. Then may we expect God to breathe upon us as a body and we receive the impulse of divine life.

4. The elements of purity, Christlikeness, loyalty within us will develop a spirit to work for the church, and if need be, die for the church. This develops sacrifice on the part of the individual for the sake of the church. Individuals sacrificing means a sacrificing church. This means the enlarging of our field of usefulness. This is divine. A great duty and privilege to carry to others the heavenly message and blessings we enjoy. Thus we can help make ours an expanding church, a church not merely for a few individuals or local, but for mankind at large.

5. And last of all. As individual members constitute the church, we can help to make members a Bible-reading, a Bible-living, a Bible-loving people. Yes, a people called of God.

OUR OWN CHURCH: WHAT CAN WE DO FOR HER?

G. W. RENCH

Within the lids of the New Testament is a description of the *ideal church* with its laws governing the admission of its members into it. The conduct of its members with their form and manner of worship is also clearly outlined. This ideal church is the pattern after which we are building. It is to be kept constantly before us so that every move will tend more and more toward this ideal. Thus Christ's church is to become "our own church" as rapidly as we make it such.

"What can we do for her?" First, study to know her. How can we build without the divine pattern? How can we earnestly contend for the faith until we know what the faith is? Read Matt. 16, for the rock upon which she stands. Read Acts 2, 8, 9 and 16, for the terms of admission into her folds. Read I Cor. for plain directions on discipline. Read Timothy for qualification of her officers, and Revelation for her hopes. Second, be loyal to her. Christ loved the church. He is our leader. Stand by her "in every way, especially by attending all her regular Sunday and mid-week services," as many of you have promised God that you would. Third, defend her, first, by a godly life; second, by speaking for her; third, by giving to support her and to send her light into many hearts now darkened by sin. Fourth, pray for her.

LIFE THOUGHTS

Christian Endeavor World.

Out of evil God brings good; and men keep him busy.

Lukewarmness is the one thing to be found neither in heaven nor hell.

Nature with a capital N is no more divine than without it.